News-item captioned "bima ghate ka sauda"

1559. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press report which appeared in the Jansatta of the 22nd January, 1986 captioned "Bima Ghate Ka Sauda";

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The main thrust of the News-item under the caption "Bima Ghate Ka Sauda" is that the bonus of Rs. 55 per thousand under whole life policies and Rs. 44 per thousand under endowment policies declared by the LIC as a result of its valuation as at 31.3.1985 is insignificant in comparison with the interest of 15 per cent available in the market on other modes of investment. It is felt that the comparison is hardly tenable as other modes of investments such as fixed Deposits and Debentures do not cover the risk of premature death. It may also be added that the above bonus rates declared after the revent valuation as on 31.3.1985, are the highest ever declared by the Corporation. The percentage increase over the rates declared at the preceding valuation are as high as 30 per cent which again is unprecedented.

Development of Buddhist Tourist Centres

1560. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to develop Buddhist tourist centres in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what amount is likely to be spent for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Master plans have been prepared by the Department of Tourism for Kushinagar, Srivasti. Piprahwa (Kapilvastu), Bodhgaya, Rajgir and Nalanda through the Town and Country Planning Organisation of Government of India and micro plans of Sravasti-Kushinagar through the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad.

For preparation of the above master plans, development of Gautamvan, celebration of Kalchakra Festival and expansion of ITDC's travellers lodge at Bodhgaya; and construction of tourist complex at Sravasti the Department has released an amount of Rs. 62.93 lakhs during Sixth Five Year Plan and 1st year of the 7th Five Year Plan. A Joint Venture hotel of Air India and Hokke Club of Japan has been constructed at Rajgir.

An integrated master plan covering all the Buddhist centres connected with life of Buddha in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar has been taken up in conjunction with the concerned State Governments and the Archaeological Survey of India.

The Department has requested the concerned States to submit proposals for development of Buddhist centres in their States to be taken up during the 7th Five Year Plan. The financial allocation will be made on acceptance of the proposals depending upon the potential of the place, availability of the funds and inter-se priority.

Evasion of Excise Duty by Fedders Lloyd

1561. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' of the 13th December, 1986 to the effect that a Delhi-based Company "Fedders Lloyd" manufacturing Refrigerators and Airconditioners has been

found evading excise duty to the sum of Rs. 23 crores; and

(b) whether it has also been alleged that the Company has been found showing less price than actually charged on paper and if so, what action has been taken by Government against the Company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On the basis of investigations, two show-cause notices have been issued to the company for alleged contravention of Central Excise law, including under valuation.

Disparity between Duty on Filament and Fibre

1562. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the disparity between the duty on filament and fibre is creating a lot of problems to synthetic spinners, and the filament manufacturers are being priced out resulting in huge unsold stock; if so, what steps Government propose to take so as to remove this anomaly;

(b) whether it is a fact that because of the price disparity, the powerlooms in Surat and Bhiwandi are finding it very difficult to sustain themselves and hundreds of powerlooms are being closed down rendering thousands of poor weavers jobless; and

(c) whether Government propose to reduce the duty on nylon filament; if so, when and by how much?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) Duties on the filament and fibre were never at par and the disparity has not resulted in building up of huge unsold stocks of filament yarn.

(b) No large scale closure of powerlooms due to price disparity has been reported.

(c) The Government is keeping a constant watch over the situation.

Foreign Tourist in Kanishka Hotel

1563. DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:
DR. SHANTI G. PATEL:

Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a foreign lady tourist landed herself in an open manhole in the parking area of the Kanishka Hotel, New Delhi, on 25th December, 1985;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether any action has been taken by the Hotel Management against the defaulter in this case?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) to (c) On 25-12-85, a foreign tourist lady's foot slipped in a manhole in the parking area of the Kanishka Hotel, New Delhi. The manhole was lightly loose and had tilted due to contact with the wheel of the car. She received some bruises on her leg and was attended to by one of the staff on duty. The services of the Security Guard, were dispensed with for negligence in not reporting the incident to the Management. The Management has also taken special precautionary measures and the manholes have been replaced with suitable steel covers.